



Governor Brian Schweitzer

Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Business Standards Division

To: Montana EMT Medical Directors

From: James Upchurch, MD, Chairperson
Montana Board of Medical Examiners

Date: November 5, 2009

RE: EMT Medical Director Requirements

Many Montana EMT Medical Directors have been requesting information and direction from the Board to assist them in understanding their function as the local EMT Medical Director. In order to help the Montana Board of Medical Examiners has adopted a new rule concerning EMT Medical Directors and medical direction of EMTs; the rule reads as follows:

24.156.2732: MEDICAL DIRECTION

- (1) Effective June 30, 2009 and within six months of taking on the responsibilities as an EMT off-line medical director, a physician or physician assistant shall:
 - (a) complete a board specified training program;
 - (b) demonstrate the principals of medical direction; or
 - (c) receive approval from the board in the event that (1)(a) or (b) is not available in that six month period.
- (2) A physician or physician assistant who fails to comply with the requirements of (1) may not function as a medical director.
- (3) The off-line medical director shall be responsible for the overall medical care provided by EMTs for whom the director agrees to provide medical oversight.
- (4) The off-line medical director must assure and have access to records of all EMTs for whom the director provides medical oversight. These records must include but are not limited to:
 - (a) the name, address, and current Montana licensure of the EMT including any endorsements;
 - (b) date when medical oversight began and at what level the EMT is authorized to function; and
 - (c) any changes to limit or approve the EMT's ability to function at the EMT's current licensure level.
- (5) The off-line medical director must develop a process to assure continued appropriate patient care. This process may include regular review of patient care reports (PCR), direct observation of care, skills demonstrations, and ongoing involvement in EMT education. Documentation of these activities must be maintained.
- (6) An off-line medical director may assign duties where appropriate but retains the responsibility for all assigned duties.
- (7) The off-line medical director may cease medical oversight by providing written notice to the EMT and the board.

AUTH: 37-3-203, 50-6-203, MCA
IMP: 50-6-203, MCA

Due to delays in establishing a new rule, the date identified in 1a cannot be achieved. We would like all current Medical Directors to complete the training program by April 2010.

The Montana Board of Medical Examiners is providing a self-paced web based training program that can be completed at your leisure in your office or at home. The educational training program is easily accessed by going to www.medicaldirectoronline.org. It is hosted by the National Association of EMS Physicians and provides you free CME for completing it.

Once you have completed the web based training program, you'll need to send a copy of your course certificate to the Board. The Board staff will document your completion and for your convenience it will

show on your licensure. Attached to this memo is a simple transmittal letter for you to utilize when sending in your certificate so that the staff can correctly credit you with having completed the training.

The training web site location, transmittal letter and other important information is available on the EMT portion of the Board web site and can be assessed at www.emt.mt.gov under the tab "MD Control", then "education".

If you have attended previous training as an EMT Medical Director and you wish to request approval from the Board under 1(b), you can document it on the transmittal letter. The Board will review your submission and notify you if they accept your previous training in lieu of the web based education.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at james.upchurch@ihs.gov, or Kenneth Threet at (406) 841-2359 or email him at kthreet@mt.gov.